



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Royal Oak Woman's Story a Testament to Foundation's Mission

Children's Leukemia Foundation's "The Walk" Planned for May 30

Troy, Mich., May 6, 2009 – Jessica Carty, M.SW, was only 16 years old when she was diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. Now, at age 23, she's returned to the organization she considers family – Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan – to help others who are experiencing the same fear and uncertainty that accompanies a diagnosis of leukemia and other blood-related disorders.

As Patient Services Coordinator for the foundation, Jessica will work with patients to provide information about diagnoses, offer emotional support, educate patients and their families, and attend Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan social events.

"Children's Leukemia Foundation was so important in my life," Jessica says. "Knowing how important that was, I think, will help me in working with patients. I'm going to be able to understand a lot of what they're going through."

She credits a great deal of her recovery to the foundation's help along the way, through emotional support, educational materials and simple phone calls to ask, "How are you doing?" Her experience also prompted her to enter the field of Social Work, which she now holds a master's degree in from Wayne State University. And now that she's not hitting the books, she spends her free time planning her June 2010 wedding.

These happy endings would not be possible for Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan without the continued support of the community. Supporters are encouraged to join Jessica and many others during "The Walk," scheduled for Saturday, May 30, 2009, a scenic three-mile route for a cure. Registration will start at 8 a.m. and "The Walk" will begin at 10 a.m. Participants and supporters can meet at Kensington Metropark, East Boat Launch, Milford, to take part in the festivities.

"The Walk" will include food provided by Buffalo Wild Wings, refreshments and entertainment. Those who plan to take part in "The Walk" may also register online until 3 p.m. May 29, 2009. On-site registration is also available the day of the event.

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There is no pledge requirement to participate in “The Walk,” but every walker is encouraged to raise a minimum of \$100. Each participant who raises \$100 will receive a 2009 “The Walk” T-shirt.

To make the event even more exciting, supporters can recruit and name their teams. They can then register their teams online at www.leukemiamichigan.org, where they may set up a personalized fundraising page to share their stories. Family members and friends of the teams may donate via credit card on the Web site through the participant’s page.

Can’t make it to the event? Supporters can still make a difference by visiting www.leukemiamichigan.org and clicking the “Donate Now” button in the top right-hand corner.

About Children’s Leukemia Foundation of Michigan

Children’s Leukemia Foundation of Michigan is a statewide agency helping families cope with leukemia, lymphoma and related disorders by providing information, financial assistance and emotional support. In addition, Children’s Leukemia Foundation of Michigan has provided more than \$6.5 million in research dollars to Michigan’s comprehensive cancer institutes. Children’s Leukemia Foundation of Michigan is headquartered in Troy, Michigan. For more information, call 1-800-825-2536 or visit www.leukemiamichigan.org.

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